



THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

## Mission News Page

The Office of Catholic Schools publishes this bi-weekly resource of announcements, events, reminders, and reference documents for building administrators.

[Visit the Administrator section of our website](#)

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### News and Notes from the Superintendent

Dear Administrators,  
Happy Catholic Schools Week! And what a week it will be, between vaccination plans, honoring the key people in our school communities, and starting enrollment for the upcoming year.

Once again, I want to sincerely thank you for all that you are doing to keep your schools open and safe this year. So much of this has fallen on your shoulders, and it has been a constant presence for just about a year now. I am truly grateful for your dedication, your love of your students, and your steadfast support of Catholic education. It is because of all of this that we will emerge from the pandemic stronger and even better than before.

You are all constantly in my prayers.

- Adam
-



our  
Catholic  
Schools

CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS  
WEEK 2021

#CSW21

## Catholic Schools Week and Recruiting / Admission Season

Our schools are rooted in a story of faith spanning thousands of years. With feet firmly planted in the present, our schools continue to flourish and meet any challenge with that faith as a guide. And, our schools have a hopeful gaze fixed on the future with limitless possibilities. Let us use Catholic Schools Week (CSW) from January 31 through February 6 to tell the story of our past, present, and future to prospective students and families and those already within our communities. We wish everyone well with your open house, showcase-style events, and admission tests!

Here are some of the ways we are helping to tell and amplify the incredible stories of the 36 preschools, 42 elementary schools, and 11 high schools of *Our Catholic Schools* during CSW:

-Click [here](#) to access the PDF of the CSW section of The Catholic Times. It is an incredible 24 pages for sure! Thank you to everyone who contributed. Please share the section with your school families and communities. While this annual compilation has always promoted our schools well, we continue to make strides in how we source articles, what we solicit from you for content, and how to strengthen the partnership with this outlet in telling our story. You may also refer people to the [Diocese's website](#) to access this and all issues of *The Catholic Times*.

-Listen to [St. Gabriel Radio's 8 am hour](#) every day next week to hear administrators and leaders from [Bishop Watterson HS's](#) partner family of schools discuss how our feeder system is designed to develop our students as educated, faith-filled missionary disciples for Jesus Christ. We are grateful to the "Fab Four" educators who participated in interviews for this series: Cindy Lombardo from St. Brigid of Kildare, Jim Silcott from Our Lady of Peace, Beth Simmonds from Bishop Watterson, and Jenna Yanko from Our Lady of Bethlehem.

-St. Gabriel will also run promotional spots throughout the week that draw attention to the recruitment and admission season for our schools. And, Bishop Brennan will give his thoughts on Catholic education during his weekly radio address!

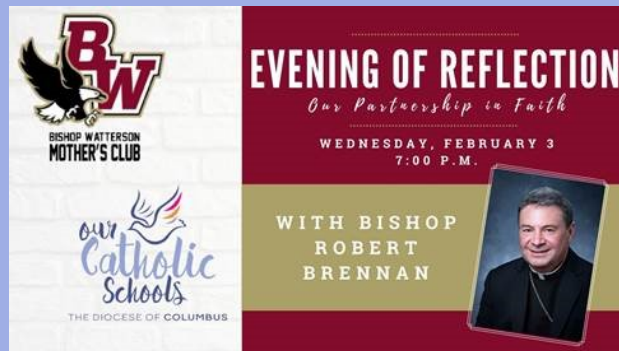
-Look for CSW content on OCS social media platforms and enlist your own platforms to

highlight all that's happening in your school. If well-crafted and properly amplified, posts are an incredibly effective way to extend your reach beyond traditional consumers. #CSW21

-We've made several story pitches to local television and print media and will keep everyone informed of our progress.

-All parents in our 11 high schools have been invited to participate in an "Evening of Reflection: Our Partnership in Faith" with Bishop Brennan on February 3. This event, sponsored by Bishop Watterson Mother's Club, provides great insight into Bishop's vision for our diocese and our schools as he answers questions submitted by parents of students in our high schools. Click [here](#) for the event registration or click on the graphic below.

Please reach out to [Lori Dulin](#) if you have any questions or want to discuss anything regarding Catholic Schools Week, recruitment, enrollment, or communications.

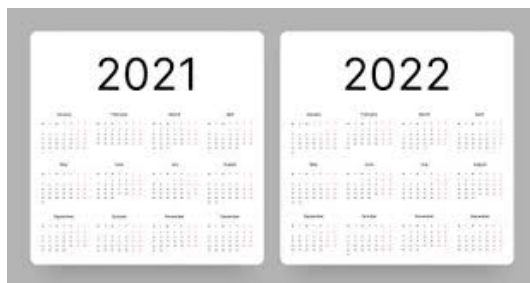


## Safe Environment Announcements

You might remember that we have had a legal hold in place on a variety of records. [This letter](#) ends that hold. No action is required on your part.

Bishop Brennan has asked that all schools send [this letter](#) to their families reminding them of important safe environment policies and procedures. Please issue this letter through your normal newsletter/information process.

## 2021-2022 School Calendar



Please click [here](#) for the template and spreadsheet to construct your 2021-2022 school calendar. High schools should submit your calendars to [Susan Streitenberger](#). Elementary schools should submit your calendars to [Kitty Quinn](#).

## 2021-2022 School Budget



2021-2022 preliminary school budget templates and memos have been emailed to all principals. Please forward these on to your business manager and/or bookkeeper, as they were not copied on the original email. Deadline for budgets is March 1, 2021. Click [here](#) for access to all budget templates and memos in the Dropbox. Contact [Seth Burkholder](#) with questions.

## Wellness Opportunities with Veritas Counseling & Consultation

Wellness services for all employees of our schools continue through Veritas Counseling & Consultation.

Click on the image to the right or [here](#) to access a flyer PDF. *Please make sure to forward this flyer to your teachers and other school personnel.*

Click [here](#) to access the recording of the January 12 Virtual Education Session "And All These Things Shall Be Added Unto You."

Join our next Virtual Education Session (open to ALL employees in our schools) on Tuesday, February 9 from 4-5pm

"Reframing Your Outlook"  
Dr. Michael S. Lewis, LPCC-S  
<https://capital.zoom.us/j/7766567273>

As we continue to cope and heal our way through the pandemic, it can be hard to wait, be patient, and remain calm. Join us as we examine how monitoring and changing our thinking impacts our emotions and behaviors. Specific approaches and strategies will be shared and practiced together.



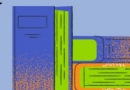
**Our Catholic Schools  
and Veritas Counseling &  
Consultation Partner Up to  
Support Educator Wellness!**



The Diocese of Columbus is committed to supporting teacher mental and emotional wellness and recognizes that the Covid-19 crisis has made the challenges educators face, and resources needed, even greater. In response, the Office of Catholic Schools and Veritas Counseling & Consultation (Upper Arlington/Grandview, Ohio) have formed a partnership to provide educational and supportive services to all diocesan educators. The Catholic Foundation is also a generous financial partner in this endeavor. This goal of this collaboration is to help teachers learn more about their own personal wellness and to explore how to "be the best versions of themselves" while coping with the many changes and demands in their learning environments and lifestyles. There are two opportunities for teachers to get connected.

### DROP INTO A VIRTUAL EDUCATION SESSION

Attend a virtual Zoom (4-5pm) once a month to learn about a different mental and emotional health topic facilitated by a Veritas counselor. The first 20 minutes will focus on presentation content. The rest of the hour will be dedicated to Q&A about the topic and, as requested, explaining how to schedule individual wellness consultations.



NOTE: The first virtual education session will take place on Tuesday, December 15 at 4:00 pm. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/93962728783>  
Topic: Self-Care Over the Holidays


### SCHEDULE A 30-MINUTE INDIVIDUAL, VIRTUAL WELLNESS CONSULTATION

Wellness consultations are not intended to serve as counseling sessions, but rather to provide teachers with recommendations, helpful resources, and possible next steps for their self-care as they navigate whatever challenges they are facing. Consultations are led by a licensed mental health counselor at no cost to the teacher and may be scheduled directly through the [Veritas website](#). Teacher identity is protected, and consultation meetings are confidential experiences that will not be shared with anyone in the Diocese (unless requested by the teacher).



## The Catholic Foundation Student Scholarships

Click [here](#) or on the image below to be directed to The Catholic Foundation's scholarship page. The application period runs from February 1 through March 1, 2021.




**APPLICATION PERIOD**  
February 1 through March 1

For more information and to apply, visit  
[www.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships](http://www.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships)

257 East Broad Street | Columbus, OH 43215 | 614-443-8893

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
2021**

 **THE  
CATHOLIC  
FOUNDATION**

## Educational Partnership with ODU



**Ohio Dominican University Partnership with Columbus Diocesan Schools Creates Educational Opportunities for Employees, Families**

Ohio Dominican University (ODU) has partnered with the Diocese of Columbus to offer teachers, staff and administrators within its schools, as well as their spouses and dependents, an opportunity to complete a wide range of graduate degrees at a discounted rate.

As an Educational Partner with ODU, school employees, spouses and dependents will be able to take advantage of the following benefits:

- Waived application fee to ODU.
- Ability to take as many as three master's-level classes tuition-free (up to 25% savings). Cohorts consisting of at least 15 participants may take as many as three courses tuition-free. Individuals may take as many as two courses tuition-free.
- Flexible start dates.
- Option to attend classes on ODU's campus during the evening, online, or possibly on-site at a Columbus Diocesan location.

Participants may choose to pursue one of several graduate degrees available at ODU, including a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction; Master of Education in Educational Leadership; Master of Arts in English; Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages; Master of Business Administration; Master of Science in Sport Management; and Master of Arts in Theology. **Contact the degree program to find out how to register and use this discount.**

"As Columbus' only comprehensive Catholic university, it is fitting that we seek creative and effective ways to partner with schools within the Diocese of Columbus to provide their dedicated teachers, staff and employees the opportunity to enhance their credentials, which ultimately enhances the overall experience of its students," ODU President Robert Gervasi said. "I want to thank Bishop Robert Brennan and Superintendent Adam Dufault for their leadership and enthusiasm in partnering with ODU to benefit those who teach, learn and work within our outstanding diocesan schools."

"We are very pleased that ODU will now offer their Educational Partnership Program to our Catholic School staff and families," Adam Dufault, the diocese's Episcopal Moderator for Education and Superintendent of Schools, said. "The capability to provide ODU's outstanding graduate coursework at a discounted rate is a great benefit to our community, and the program will contribute greatly in our mission to provide both academic excellence and an authentic Catholic education experience to our students."



Ohio Dominican University does not discriminate against any person in employment or educational opportunities because of religious preference, sex, race, color, national or ethnic origin, non-performance-related handicap or veteran status.

We have partnered with Ohio Dominican University to offer all school employees, their spouses, and dependents the opportunity to complete a wide range of graduate degrees at a discounted rate.

Click on the image to the left or [here](#) to access the flyer PDF.

## Government Affairs Updates



Ohio has been allocated \$155 million in Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (EANS) grants through the GEER fund. The Governor is expected to apply for EANS. Funds would go to all non-public schools and allocations would be determined based on low income data. Further details are expected, including the allocation formula, after the state receives the funds. **Schools cannot receive both the second round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and EANS funds, they have to choose one.**

The EdChoice application window for the 2021-2022 school year will not open until March 1, 2020. According to ODE, all updated program information is planned to be published online by the end of January. This includes eligibility criteria and forms.

Please continue to send names for the OCS Legislative Action Network to Alison Cozad. Once the state biennial budget opens, it will be full steam ahead! We hope you were able to check out the inaugural issue of "Advocate," our source for government affairs news and info.

Please check your OEDs account and be sure all your school information and role assignment is up-to-date. If any information needs to be updated, or if you need a staff member removed or added to an OEDS role, please contact Alison Cozad or Susan Streitenberger.

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## Licensure Renewal

Educators whose licenses or permits were previously set to expire July 1, 2020, must renew for the 2020-21 school year (effective date July 1, 2020) in accordance with their license renewal cycle.

**When renewing any license or permit that was previously set to expire on July 1, 2020, applicants must select July 1, 2020, as the effective date.**

Educators will need to complete their required professional development by July 1, 2021, or an additional three semester hours of professional development will be required for renewal.

Educators who hold renewable one-year licenses or permits and wish to renew for next (2021-22) school year must first renew for the 2020-21 school year.

## 2021-2022 Tuition Assistance Flyers (Spanish and English)

Click on the images below to access Spanish and English flyer PDFs.

**Marquen Sus Calendarios**  
con la siguiente información relacionada al  
Programa de Ayuda Financiera de la diócesis de Columbus  
para el próximo Año Escolar.


**TODAS LAS SOLICITUDES TIENEN QUE  
HACERSE EN LÍNEA**  
[www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com)

**Y PRESENTARSE ELECTRONICAMENTE ANTES  
DEL 15 DE MARZO**

Si no posee acceso a la internet, favor ir a la biblioteca más cercana o coordinar con la escuela de su hijo para que le den la ayuda necesaria.

**Para ser considerados para el Programa de Ayuda  
Financiera Escolar de la diócesis de Columbus:**

1. El estudiante tiene que estar inscrito en cualquier escuela de la diócesis antes del 15 de marzo.
2. La diócesis solo aceptará las SOLICITUDES presentadas ELECTRONICAMENTE ([www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com)). Las solicitudes deberán presentarse antes del 15 de marzo y toda la documentación de apoyo debe ser enviada por correo postal y matasellada antes del 15 de marzo.
3. Pago de la tarifa de la solicitud por \$35.00 se DEBE de adjuntar a la solicitud.
4. Sólo una solicitud por familia es requerida.
5. La documentación requerida son el W2 del año corriente (2020) y la Declaración de Impuestos Federales del año previo (2019) o, si Usted no recibe un W2, la Declaración de Impuestos Federales del año previo (2019) y del año corriente (2020).



## Mark Your Calendar

with the following information regarding  
Diocese of Columbus Tuition Assistance  
for the next School Year

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED  
ONLINE BY **MARCH 15**  
[www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com)

If you do not have Internet access, please check with your school or local library

To be considered for the Diocese of Columbus  
Tuition Assistance Program:

1. You must be registered in one of the Diocesan schools by March 15.
2. The Diocese will only accept ONLINE APPLICATIONS ([www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com)), the application must be submitted by March 15 and supporting documentation must be postmarked by March 15. Verification of application must be completed within 14 days from application submission. (Please file early in case additional documentation is requested by FACTS.)
3. Payment of the \$35.00 application fee must accompany the application.
4. Only one application per family is required.

5. Required documents

Tax Return Requirements	
Tax Return Year:	2019
W-2 Year:	2020
If No W-2 Income – Tax Return Year:	2020



## Teaching and Learning Updates



### Course of Study Reviews

The Health and Early Learning Committees held their initial meetings this month and have carved out their plans going forward. The World Languages and Latin Committee will meet in February to start their process.

The committees will look at any existing standards and other diocesan standards to develop the Columbus Diocese courses of study. They will also look at updating the report card standards as well.

### Spring Testing Requirements for EdChoice Students

Renaissance STAR Math, STAR Early Literacy, and STAR Reading are now approved alternative tests for ELA and Math. Schools may use those in place of the state tests. Grade 5 and Grade 8 students will still need to take the state Science test in the Spring.

### Spring Testing Requirements for Jon Peterson/ Autism Students

Even though we have received word that alternative testing for Jon Peterson and Autism students has been passed in the legislature, we need to get confirmation from ODE on the approved tests. Until we get that, we must continue to administer the state test in all subject matters for our Jon Peterson and Autism Scholarship students.

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## Verification of Racial Non-Discrimination Form Follow-Up

Per the IRS Form 5578 each school completed in the Fall, please make sure the following statement is on the homepage of your school website:

"\_\_\_\_\_ School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs."

Join the efforts of our good friends at [Bottoms Up](#) for the  
WORLD'S LARGEST DIAPER DRIVE on May 1!

Click on the image below or [here](#) to access flyer PDF.



Thank you for your willingness to join [Bottoms Up Diaper Drive](#) in this **Historic** event!

Our goal is to collect **250,000 diapers on May 1, 2021!**

**Why are we doing it?** To help raise awareness of **Diaper Need**. Diaper Need is *not having a sufficient supply of diapers to keep a baby clean, dry and healthy*. It is a sad fact that 1 in 3 families in the US report suffering from Diaper Need. Right here in Central Ohio there are single moms living in poverty who struggle to afford the \$80 a month it costs to diaper their babies.

How to Help:

- Look at your calendar and set aside 2 - 4 weeks in April to hold a diaper drive.
- Promote the diaper drive to your church congregation, school, or business community during the month of March. (We will provide you with some postcard/verbiage to use by the first week of March. **Be sure we have the best way to contact you!**)
- Encourage people to bring in packages of diapers in all sizes to a central location during your diaper drive in April while continuing to promote it via your normal communication channels.

On Saturday, **May 1<sup>st</sup>**

Bring the diapers you have collected to <a href="#">Connexion West</a> between <b>10 AM and 4 PM</b>	OR	Contact us in advance and arrange to have them picked up.
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- Stay tuned for the update on the success of the [World's Largest Diaper Drive!](#)

Some suggestions for a successful Diaper Drive:

- Convey the impact that the gift of diapers can have on families living below the poverty line in your messaging.
- Encourage full participation, we won't get to a quarter million diapers without YOU!
- Follow [Bottoms Up Diaper Drive](#) on **Social Media**, share relevant posts to your page, and tag us in any posts that you do.

**Questions?** Reach out to Joe Holbrook at [jholbrook@bottomsup.life](mailto:jholbrook@bottomsup.life); 740.503.4726



322 N. High St. Lancaster, OH 43130

[www.bottomsup.life](http://www.bottomsup.life)

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

## ACRE Testing



We are participating in the NCEA IFG ACRE program to evaluate religious education in our schools. Catholic Faith Technologies is NCEA's technology partner for the administration of all IFG Adult Survey and IFG ACRE assessments, and they have expressed their sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve you all.

Their team provided the Diocese with this document to make implementing the IFG ACRE program as smooth as possible this year, according to best practices defined by NCEA.

Students participating in remote learning may take the ACRE in their remote setting; however, the online testing does not have security features such as locked down browsers, etc. The test would have to be proctored by parents or through Zoom for Part 1. Part 2 is the affective questions and doesn't require the same sort of monitoring mechanisms as Part 1.

The diocese only requires aggregate reporting, not individual student score reporting. There will be an additional cost associated for your school if you want enhanced reporting of that nature.

Due to Google Chrome update, some users may get an error when trying to add an ACRE product to their cart. The error will specify "Item was not added to cart due to an error." My Catholic Faith Technology is working on resolving the issue. In the meantime users may resolve this in two ways: 1. Switch to Mozilla Firefox and place the order. 2. Contact NCEA's support team and they will place the order: [help@nceaifg.com](mailto:help@nceaifg.com) or call 1-800-707-NCEA.



JULY 12-15, 2021

# ST. JOHN BOSCO CONFERENCE

For Evangelization and Catechesis

Bishop Joseph Strickland      Ron Bolster      Sr. Mary Michael Fox, OP

Featuring over 100 workshops by field experts.

"Shine like lights in the world." Philippians 2:15

Calling all catechists, Catholic school teachers, youth ministers, evangelizers, RCIA coordinators, and anyone who hands on the faith to others! This is your time, your place to come be renewed in mind, heart, and skills. Experience many engaging speakers, moving worship, and outstanding fellowship that will rejuvenate you for life and mission.

We look forward to welcoming and serving you!

CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY      STEUBENVILLE CONFERENCES An outreach of Franciscan University of Steubenville      FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE

[steubenvilleconferences.com/adult/sjb](https://steubenvilleconferences.com/adult/sjb)  
for registration and more information!

## Catechetical Institute Updates



### Catechetical Institute Check in and Q and A for Administrators

February 25, 2021 at 12:30 pm

Presented by Dr. Bill Keimig and Amy Pequignot

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

[https://cducation.zoom.us/j/4423451260?](https://cducation.zoom.us/j/4423451260?pwd=ajFGQ0ZNaGJVYk9QQVp3MUhlcHIEZz09)

[pwd=ajFGQ0ZNaGJVYk9QQVp3MUhlcHIEZz09](https://cducation.zoom.us/j/4423451260?pwd=ajFGQ0ZNaGJVYk9QQVp3MUhlcHIEZz09)

-All administrators and faculty should now have a CI account. If you do not, click [here](#) to access the "Franciscan at Home" site to create or log in to your account. Please reach out to Amy at [cipartners@franciscan.edu](mailto:cipartners@franciscan.edu) with sign-up and tech issues.

-New Teacher and New Administrator program begins this month.

-All other administrators and faculty will take one workshop a year through CI for ongoing ministry formation. Administrators have two options: 1. They may select a workshop for all faculty and staff that meets their school accreditation goals. 2. Faculty may select any workshop for their professional development. Note that this applies to teachers and other practitioners who are employed by our schools, not to those who may work in our buildings but are contracted through public school partners, other agencies, etc.

-Therese Recinella sent each building administrator a letter of explanation, a Religion Certification Equivalency form, TCCDB Religion Certification Summary, and TCCDB Individual Teacher Certification Record for veteran teachers who need to finish religion certification through the Catechetical Institute. There will be an opportunity to schedule a one-on-one session with Therese Recinella in January if you need assistance regarding equivalencies. Forms were due **January 20, 2021**. *It has come to our attention that there were numerous discrepancies in the TCCDB Reports. Therese will continue to offer office hours to assist.*

-NEW teachers have 3 years to complete the program:

2020-2021 school year – Year 1 (due date extended to August 31, 2021)

2021-2022 school year-Year 2 (complete by June 30, 2022)

2022-2023 school year-Year 3 (complete by June 30, 2023)

-**Guidelines for Veteran Teachers and Veteran Administrators finishing certification through CI:**

Completion dates are based on the number of workshops needed.

Up to 8 workshops-Complete by August 31,2021

Up to 16 workshops-Complete by June 30, 2022

Up to 20 workshops-Complete by June 30 2023

Veteran teachers take the workshops through the New Teacher Track and Veteran Administrators take the workshops needed through the New Administrator Track.

**-Tracking workshops through CI for teachers and administrators that need one workshop a year:**

CI is working toward creating a track for Ongoing Formation that will allow the learners to take any workshop in the system and allow that work to fulfill the requirement of one workshop a year. There are a few things that they need to modify and build into the system in order to accomplish this goal, and it will take some time. In the meantime, those completing the one workshop a year for professional development may do the following: Upon completion of a workshop, learners click on the button at the bottom that says "Email me my workshop progress." It will send the tasks to the email addresses used for their accounts. Learners can receive the workshop progress in their inbox and also be able to forward it to anyone else that needs access to it.

**-Mentor Training "Being Guided and Guiding Souls" Schedule**

February 8 - Segments 3, 4, 5

March 8 - Segments 6,7,8

April 12 - Segments 9, 10, 11

**Zoom link for this entire series of mentor**

**meetings:** <https://cducation.zoom.us/j/82262336885?pwd=RXFhK09USEpTQUlvQUIGR1h0WUhzQT09>

\*It is preferred that CI mentors not be current RE mentors so as to give all mentees the time and attention they need.

\*\*CEU forms for mentors are now available on the [LPDC section](#) of the OCS website.

-All CI trainings and meetings are recorded and posted in the [CI Dropbox folder](#).

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February is Black History Month. Click on the image below or [here](#) to access a flyer PDF.

The diocesan office of [Catholic Ethnic Ministries](#) is a wonderful resource for our schools and communities.



# SHARING OUR STORY

## AN ENDURING FAITH

Featuring His Eminence the Most Reverend  
Wilton Cardinal Gregory on February 13 and 27

Join us every Saturday in February for an in-depth educational experience for Black History Month. We strive to inspire the Christian faithful through the witness of our Catholic candidates for sainthood. We will celebrate how they triumphed over tragedies and learn how can we do the same.

<b>February 6</b>	Pierre Toussaint and Elizabeth Lange
<b>February 13</b>	Henriette Delille and Augustus Tolton
<b>February 20</b>	Julia Greeley and Thea Bowman
<b>February 27</b>	Augustus Tolton: Renewal, Restoration and Reconciliation

**Virtual Doors Open:** 3:45 p.m. EST

**Program Starts:** 4 p.m. EST

**Free Admission:** [eventbrite.com/e/134671105903](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/134671105903)

**Co-Sponsors:** Diocese of Columbus, Diocese of Birmingham, Diocese of Richmond, Archdiocese of Denver and the Tolton Spirituality Center

